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CURSE OF THE SPAWN™

Todd McFarlane &
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TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS

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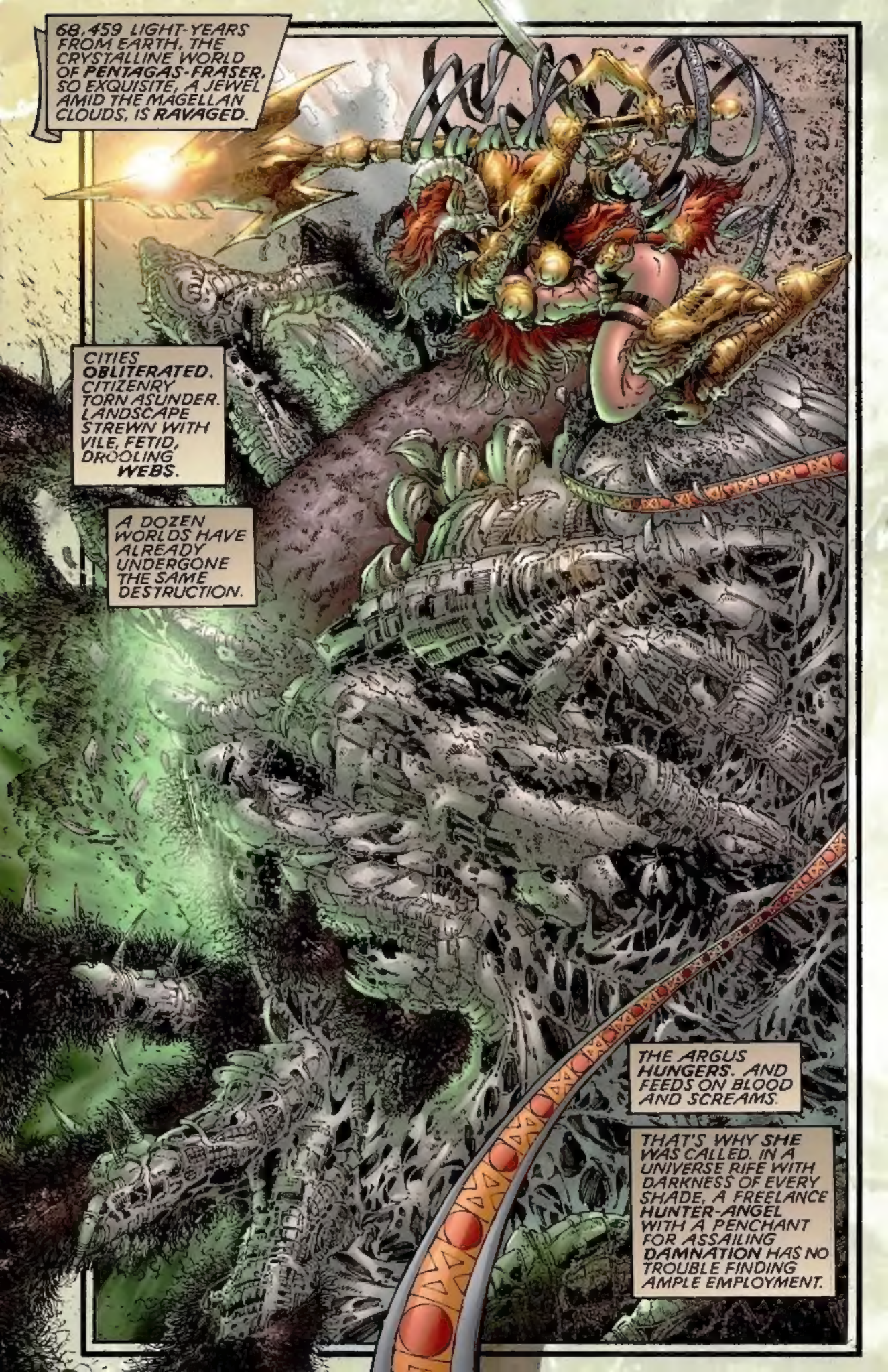
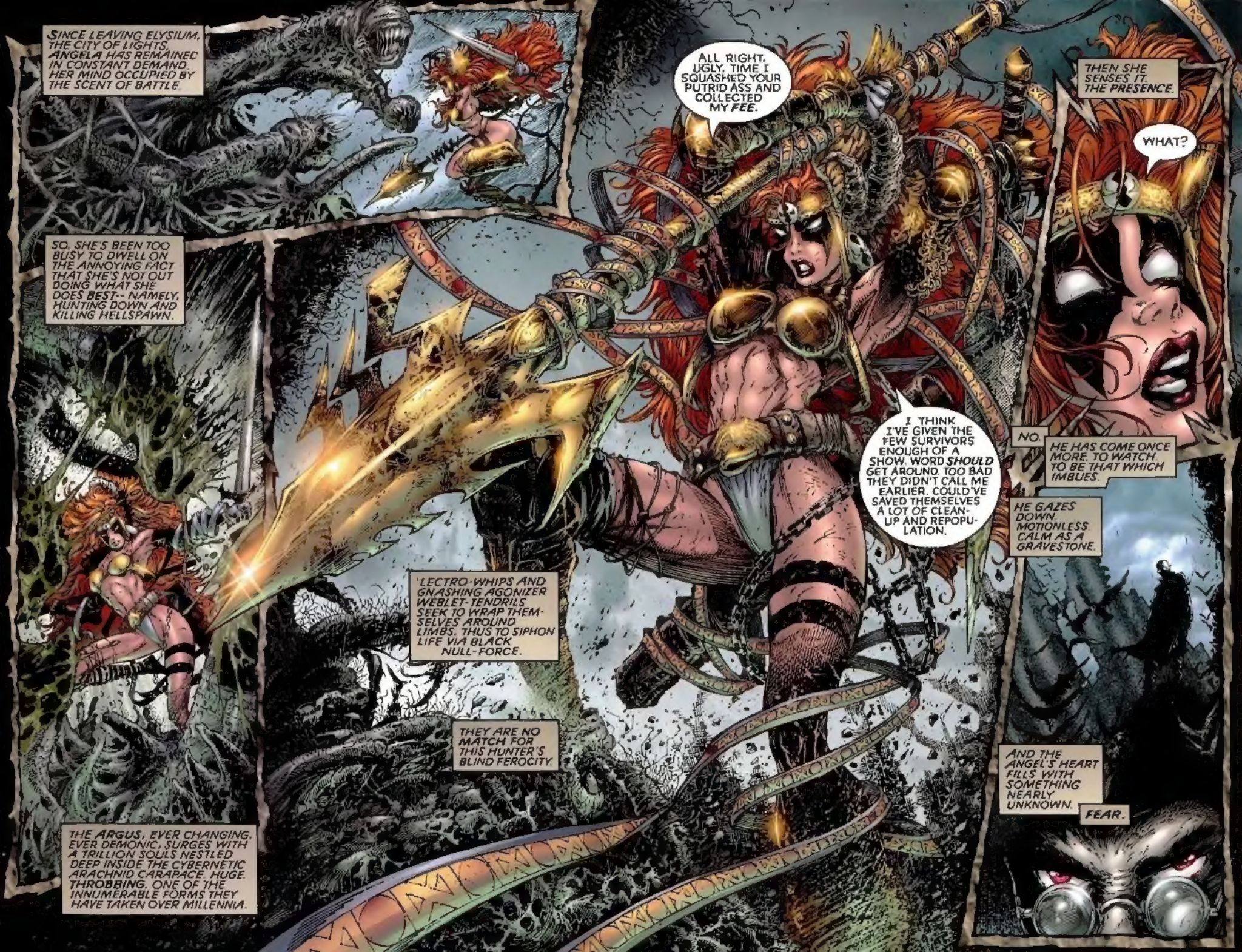

68,459 LIGHT-YEARS FROM EARTH, THE CRYSTALLINE WORLD OF PENTAGAS-FRASER, SO EXQUISITE, A JEWEL AMID THE MAGELLAN CLOUDS, IS RAVAGED.
CITIES OBLITERATED. CITIZENRY TORN ASUNDER. LANDSCAPE STREWN WITH VILE, FETID, DROOLING WEBS.
A DOZEN WORLDS HAVE ALREADY UNDERGONE THE SAME DESTRUCTION.
THE ARGUS HUNGERS. AND FEEDS ON BLOOD AND SCREAMS.
THAT'S WHY SHE WAS CALLED. IN A UNIVERSE RIFE WITH DARKNESS OF EVERY SHADE, A FREELANCE HUNTER-ANGEL WITH A PENCHANT FOR ASSAILING DAMNATION HAS NO TROUBLE FINDING AMPLE EMPLOYMENT.


SINCE LEAVING ELYSIUM, THE CITY OF LIGHTS, ANGELA HAS REMAINED IN CONSTANT DEMAND. HER MIND OCCUPIED BY THE SCENT OF BATTLE.
SO. SHE'S BEEN TOO BUSY TO DWELL ON THE ANNOYING FACT THAT SHE'S NOT OUT DOING WHAT SHE DOES BEST-- NAMELY, HUNTING DOWN AND KILLING HELLSPAWN.
THE ARGUS, EVER CHANGING, EVER DEMONIC, SURGES WITH A TRILLION SOULS NESTLED DEEP INSIDE THE CYBERNETIC ARACHNID CARAPACE. HUGE. THROBBING. ONE OF THE INNUMERABLE FORMS THEY HAVE TAKEN OVER MILLENNIA.
'LECTRO-WHIPS AND GNASHING AGONIZER WEBLET-TENDRILS SEEK TO WRAP THEMSELVES AROUND LIMBS, THUS TO SIPHON LIFE VIA BLACK NULL-FORCE.
THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THIS HUNTER'S BLIND FEROCITY.
ALL RIGHT, UGLY. TIME I SQUASHED YOUR PUTRID ASS AND COLLECTED MY FEE.
I THINK I'VE GIVEN THE FEW SURVIVORS ENOUGH OF A SHOW. WORD SHOULD GET AROUND. TOO BAD THEY DIDN'T CALL ME EARLIER. COULD'VE SAVED THEMSELVES A LOT OF CLEAN-UP AND REPOPULATION.
THEN SHE SENSES IT. THE PRESENCE.
WHAT?
NO.
HE HAS COME ONCE MORE. TO WATCH. TO BE THAT WHICH IMBUES.
HE GAZES DOWN. MOTIONLESS. CALM AS A GRAVESTONE.
AND THE ANGEL'S HEART FILLS WITH SOMETHING NEARLY UNKNOWN.
FEAR.

DAMMIT, LOST MY CONCENTRATION--
--CAN'T--
HESITATION. LOSS OF FOCUS. A FATAL COMBINATION.
GOTTA HANG ON-- RIBBONS--
NO.
THE FACE OF DARKNESS.
THE SPECTER OF DEATH.
HE WATCHES IMPASSIVELY AS THE ARGUS DOES ITS WORST, AND GIVES NO THOUGHT TO THE ANGEL'S SUFFERING.

PAIN. MORE PAIN.
CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS IN FITS AND STARTS.
THEN SHE SEES HER SURROUNDINGS. THE GIANT STALACTITE FOREST. A THOUSAND DESICCATED CORPSES WEBBED IN FIBROUS COCOONS FOR EASY FEEDING.
"LOOKS LIKE I'M NEXT ON THE ARGUS' MENU. GOOD JOB, ANGELA. NICE GOING. AFTER A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS, THIS IS HOW IT ENDS. DINNER FOR A CIVILIZATION OF BLACK-HEARTED GHOSTS MASQUERADING AS A GIANT PLANT-EATING BUG.
"BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I FACED TRUE DEATH. AND HIM.
"FATHER, WHY DO I FEEL MORE FEAR OF HIM THAN DEATH ITSELF?
"THAT MAN. A NAME COMES BACK TO ME. LIKE A DREAM. LIKE A NIGHTMARE.
"DEURGES."

EARTH. THE AFRICAN SUB-SAHARAN SAVANNAH ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO--
--WHERE SURVIVAL IS KING AND DEATH IS SWIFT AS WIND AND RAIN.
A BUSHWOMAN RUNS WITH HER LAST SON AGAINST HER BREAST--HER MEAGER VILLAGE DESTROYED BY VICIOUS SCAVENGERS.
SHE'S RUN FROM THEM FOR HOURS--
--BUT HER PURSUERS WILL NOT RELENT.
SHE IS AT THE END OF HER STRENGTH. HAD SHE BEEN ALONE, SHE WOULD HAVE SURRENDERED HERSELF LONG AGO. NOW SHE RUNS, NOT FOR HERSELF, BUT FOR THE LIFE OF HER CHILD.
THEN SHE SEES IT. THE FACE IN THE STONE. CUT BY TIME AND ELEMENTS, AND SOMEHOW IT GIVES HER POWER, STRENGTH, AND RAGE.
YAUGH!!
KRAK!
HER CHILD SAFE IN THE UNDERBRUSH, AND ONE FOOT AGAINST THE COLD STONE BEARING DEATH'S FACE, SHE STANDS HER GROUND UNTIL THE LAST OF THE PROTO-MEN HAVE FALLEN.
YAAAH!

PRIMAL MATERNAL INSTINCT HAS WILLED OUT. HER SON IS SAFE. A LIFE SHE WOULD NOT LET DEATH TAKE FROM HER.
GRRRR
MAUBUK!
WITH MOUTHS LIKE SMALL CAVES AND FANGS FOULED BY BLOOD AND RENT FLESH OF AN EARLIER KILL, THE LEOPARDS CLAIM THE MEN.
SHRED BONE AND FLESH WITH RAZOR EASE.
SHE GRABS HER CHILD AND FLEES ONCE MORE, HER ONLY THOUGHT IS OF PROTECTING HER SON.
BUT SHE HAS NO CHANCE. SHE CLIMBS AND PLACES HER SON IN THE HIGH BRANCHES.
AND THEN SHE SEES HIM... HIS IMPLACABLE VISAGE AS HE STANDS AMID THE FEEDING BEASTS. IGNORED. UNTOUCHED.
HE WATCHES AND KNOWS HER FATE.

SHE PRAYS TO DIVINITIES AS YET UNNAMED THAT THE LEOPARDS WILL BE SATED WITH HER.
A MOTHER'S SACRIFICE.
HER SCREAMS SET HER CHILD WAILING AS FANGS SHATTER HER BONES AND CLAWS OPEN HER SPINAL COLUMN TO FRESH AIR AND SUNLIGHT.
AND, EVEN AS SHE DIES, SHE WORRIES THAT HER CHILD WILL STARVE IN THAT LONELY TREE. OR FALL VICTIM TO PECKING BIRDS OR VICIOUS SIMIANS.
BUT THEN SHE SEES WHAT SHE CANNOT COMPREHEND.
SHE SHOULD BE AFRAID AS HER CHILD IS SWEPT UP IN THE ARMS OF THE GENTLE SERAPHIM.
BUT INSTEAD, AS DEATH DESCENDS AND THE ANGEL CARRIES HER CHILD TO SAFETY, SHE FEELS A PROFOUND SENSE OF PEACE.

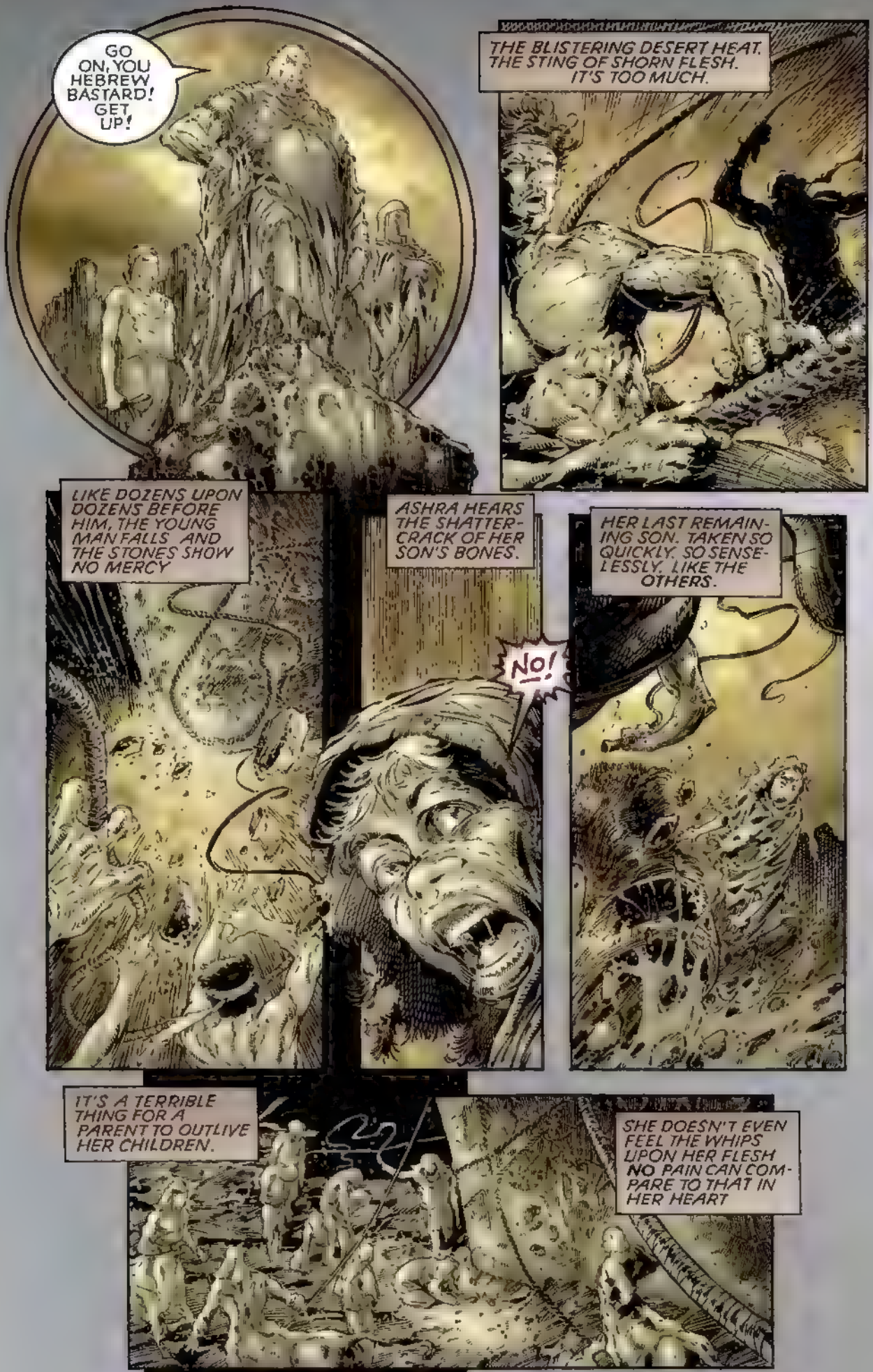
ANCIENT EGYPT.
THE TIME OF BUILDING.
HEBREW SLAVES STOMP THEIR BLISTERED BLEEDING FEET IN CLAY PITS. STRAW IS POURED IN TO MAKE BRICKS FOR THE ENDLESS MONUMENTS THE MINOTAUR WORSHIPPERS BUILD TO THEIR FALSE GODS--
--AND TO THEMSELVES.

WHIPS CRACK WITHOUT MERCY. FLESH IS FLAYED TO THE BONE.

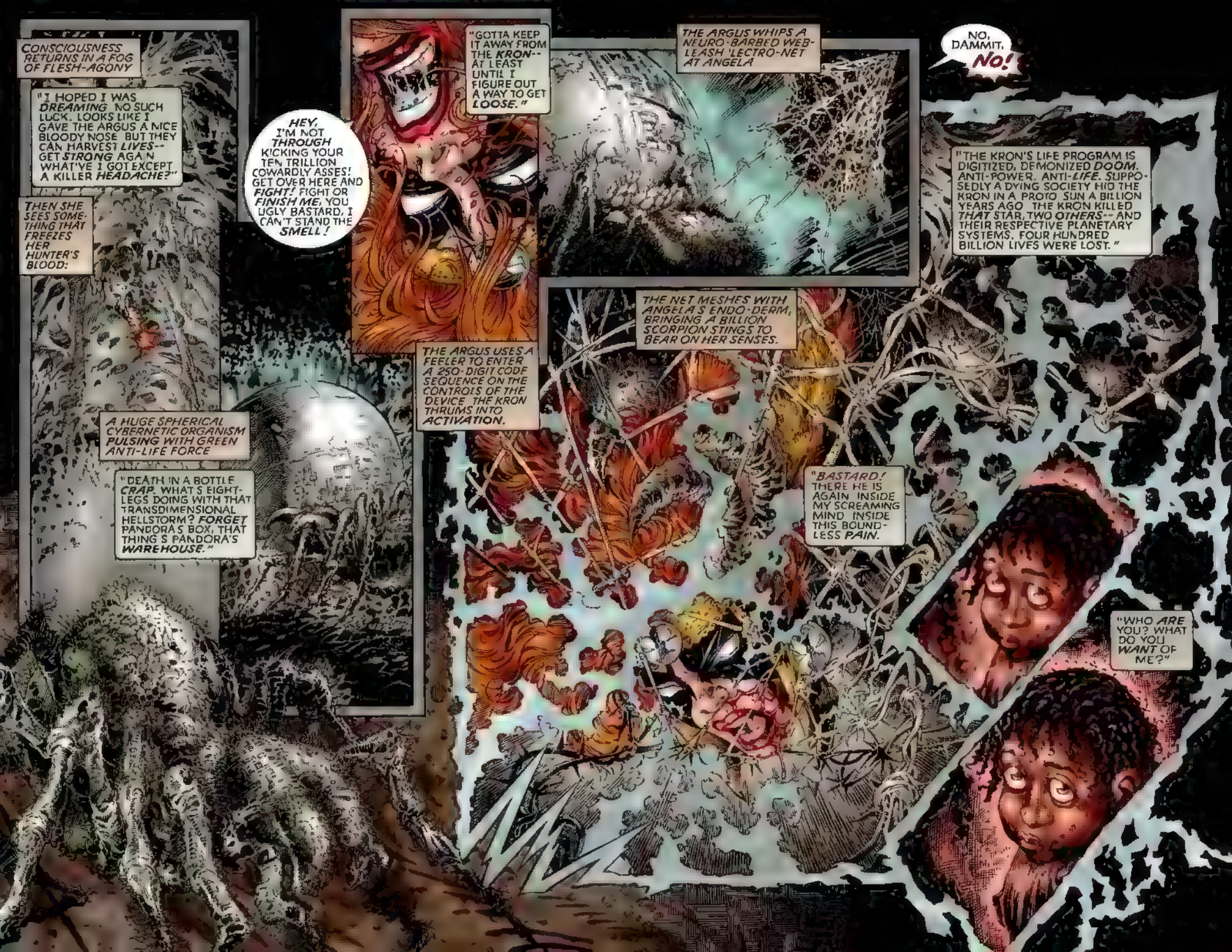
AMONG THE MANY, AN OLD WOMAN, ASHRA, WATCHES HER SON ON THE BLOCK RAMPS.

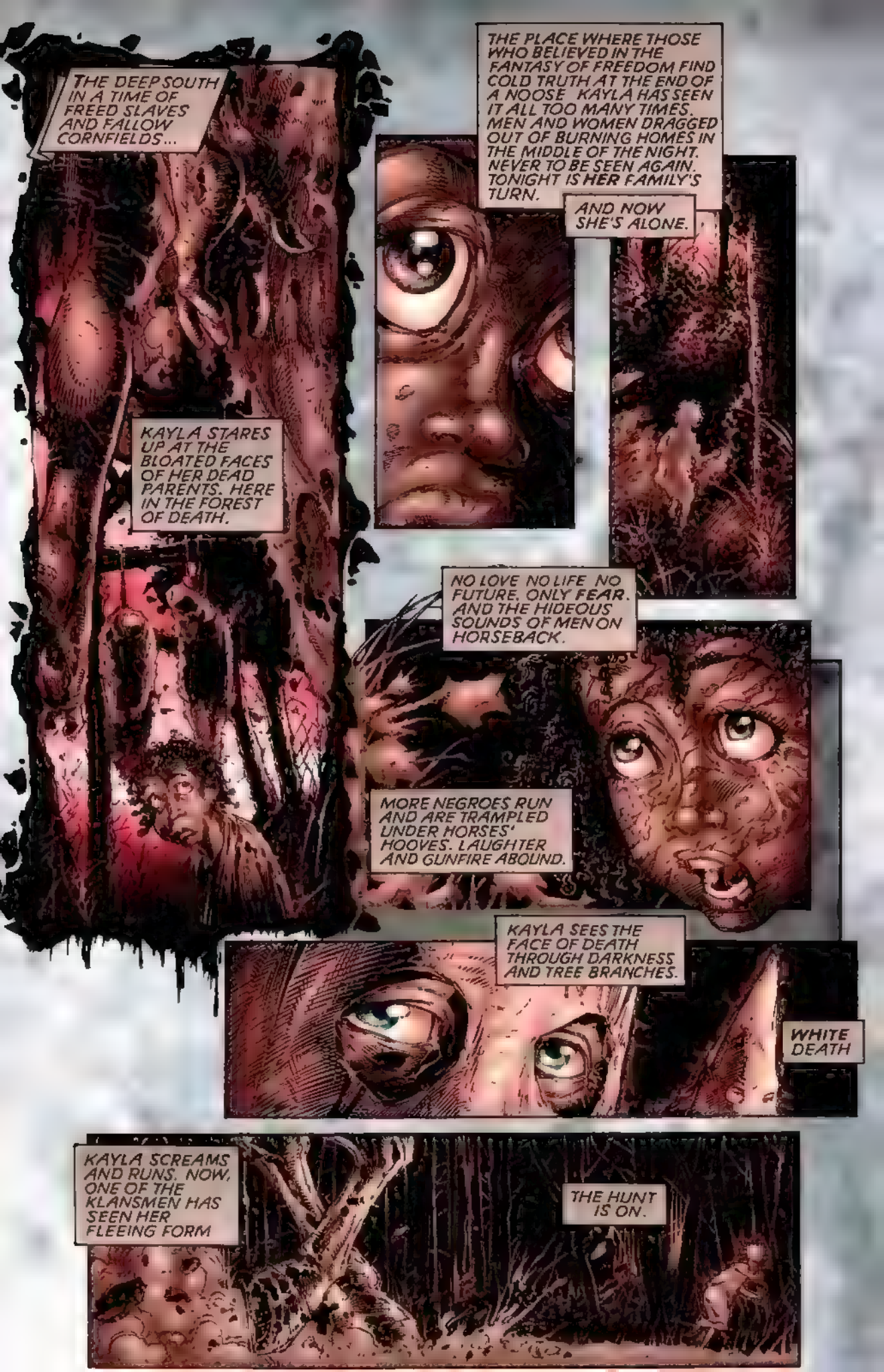
HE HAS GONE ALL DAY WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER. AT TIMES SHE FEELS IT HAS BEEN ONLY HER PRAYERS THAT HAVE HELPED HIM CONTINUE.

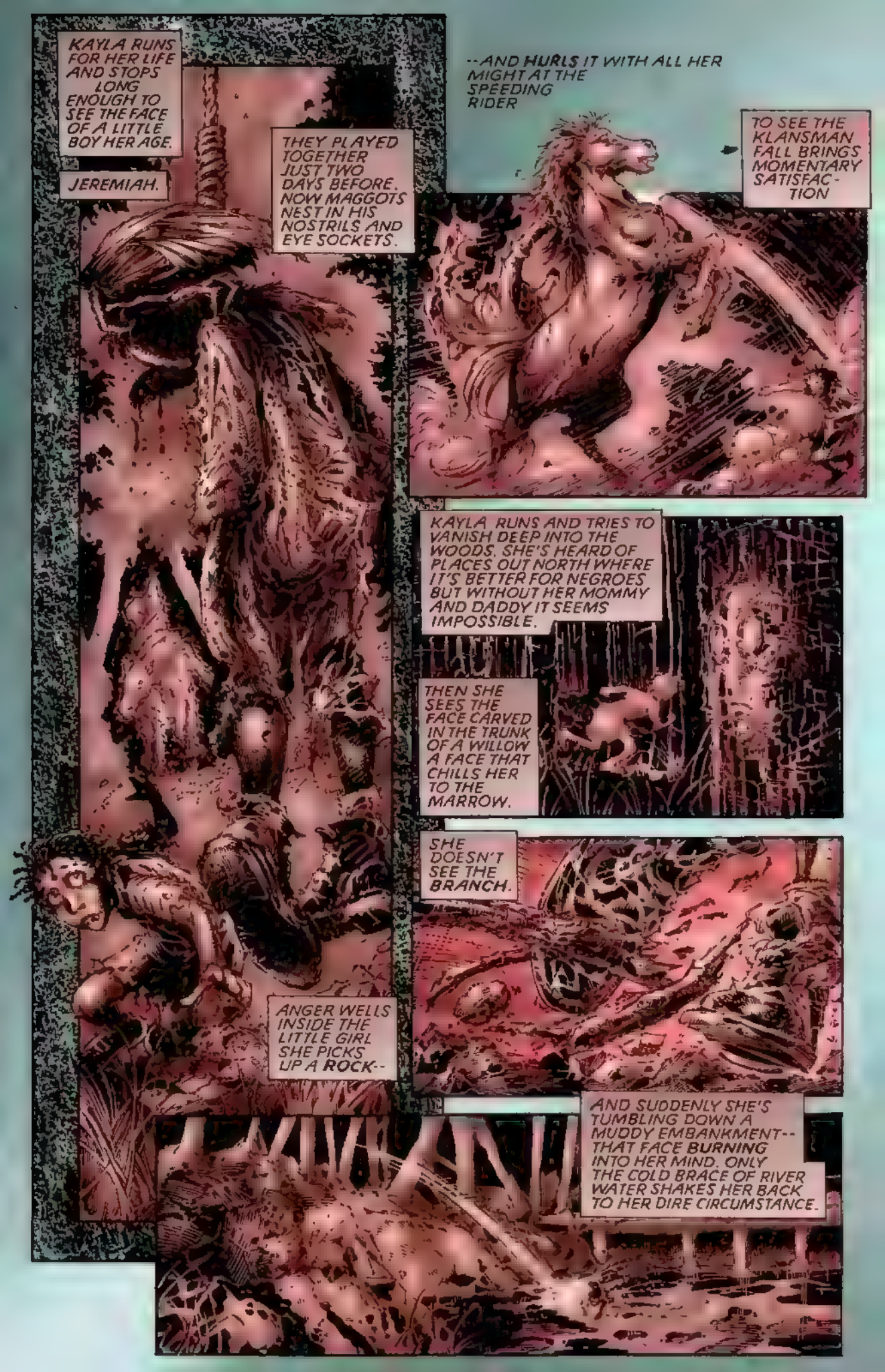
BUT NOW HIS STRENGTH FALTERS.
AND THE SENTRIES REACT WITH ICY BRUTALITY.


GO ON, YOU HEBREW BASTARD! GET UP!
THE BLISTERING DESERT HEAT. THE STING OF SHORN FLESH. IT'S TOO MUCH.
LIKE DOZENS UPON DOZENS BEFORE HIM, THE YOUNG MAN FALLS AND THE STONES SHOW NO MERCY
ASHRA HEARS THE SHATTER-CRACK OF HER SON'S BONES.
NO!
HER LAST REMAINING SON. TAKEN SO QUICKLY. SO SENSELESSLY. LIKE THE OTHERS.
IT'S A TERRIBLE THING FOR A PARENT TO OUTLIVE HER CHILDREN.
SHE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL THE WHIPS UPON HER FLESH NO PAIN CAN COMPARE TO THAT IN HER HEART

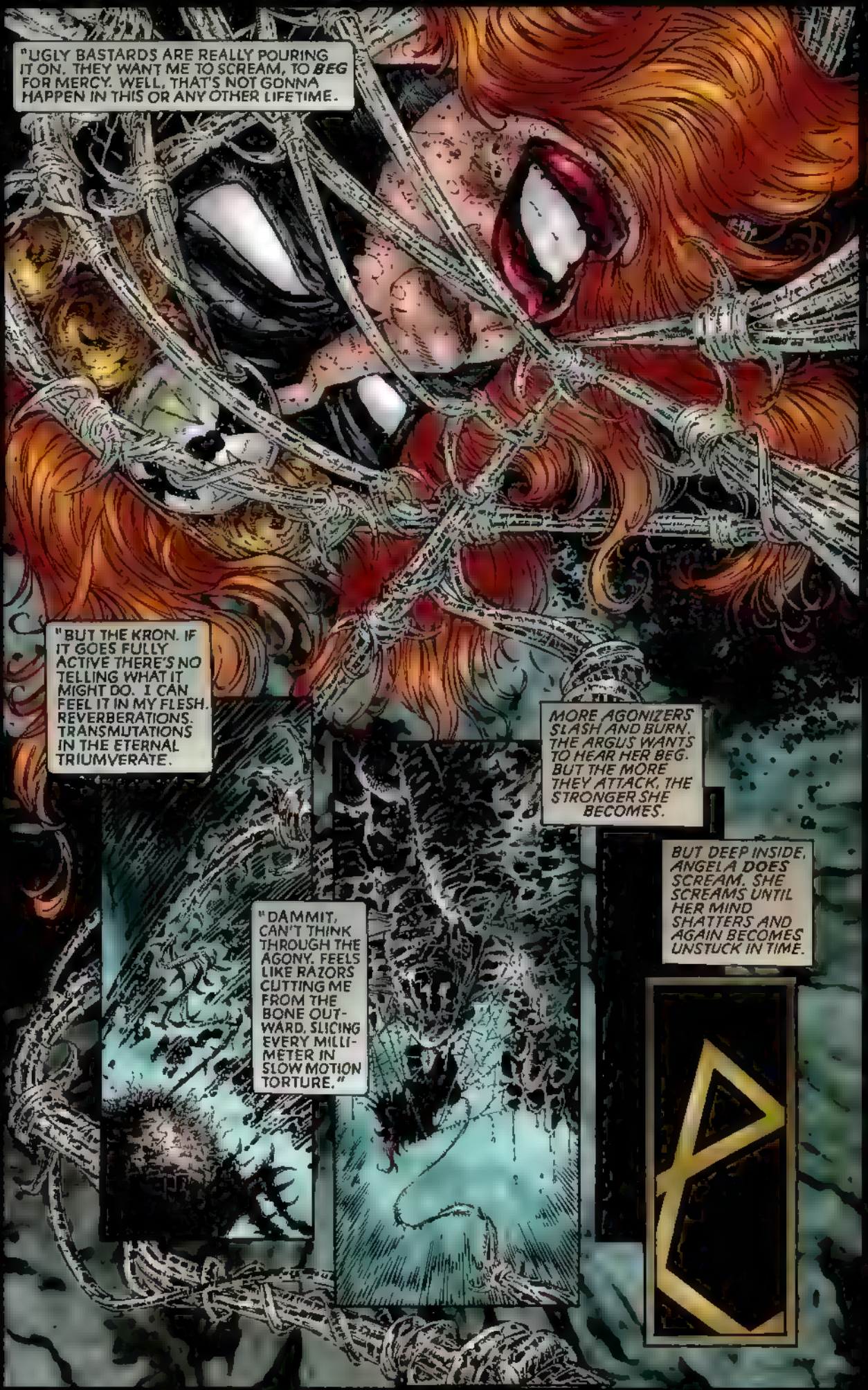
WHY HAVE YOU TAKEN HIM? WHY YOU TAKE MY SON?
WHO ARE YOU?
LIGHT FALLS INTO DELIRGES AND DOESN'T RETURN
TAKE HER FOR THE WHIPS AFTERWARD, LEAVE HER BONES FOR THE JACKALS.
THE WHIPS DO THEIR WORK, TAKING ASHRA A STEP CLOSER TO DEATH WITH EVERY LASH
IT'S ALRIGHT, MAMA. IT'S MORE WONDERFUL THAN YOU CAN KNOW. BUT WE'LL BE TOGETHER SOON. AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD AND, BEST OF ALL, WE'LL BE FREE
WE'RE ALL THERE WE'RE ALL HIS CHILDREN NOW AND FOREVER.
BUT THEN, A WARMTH COMES. A SENSE OF HOLY PEACE. AND THE FACE OF HER SON ON THE PURE, GLISTENING EDGE OF HEAVEN.
MY CHILDREN? YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?
PEACE


CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS IN A FOG OF FLESH-AGONY
"I HOPED I WAS DREAMING. NO SUCH LUCK. LOOKS LIKE I GAVE THE ARGUS A NICE BLOODY NOSE. BUT THEY CAN HARVEST LIVES-- GET STRONG AGA N WHAT'YE I GOT EXCEPT A KILLER HEADACHE?"
THEN SHE SEES SOMETHING THAT FREEZES HER HUNTER'S BLOOD:
A HUGE SPHERICAL CYBERNETIC ORGANISM PULSING WITH GREEN ANTI-LIFE FORCE
"DEATH IN A BOTTLE CRAP. WHAT S EIGHT-LEGS DOING WITH THAT TRANSDIMENSIONAL HELLSTORM? FORGET PANDORA S BOX, THAT THING S PANDORA'S WAREHOUSE."
HEY, I'M NOT THROUGH KICKING YOUR TEN TRILLION COWARDLY ASSES! GET OVER HERE AND FIGHT! FIGHT OR FINISH ME, YOU UGLY BASTARD. I CAN'T STAND THE SMELL!
"GOTTA KEEP IT AWAY FROM THE KRON-- AT LEAST UNTIL I FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET LOOSE."
THE ARGUS USES A FEELER TO ENTER A 250-DIGIT CODE SEQUENCE ON THE CONTROLS OF THE DEVICE. THE KRON THRUMS INTO ACTIVATION.
THE ARGUS WHIPS A NEURO-BARBED WEB-LEASH 'LECTRO-NET AT ANGELA
THE NET MESHES WITH ANGELA S ENDO-DERM, BRINGING A BILLION SCORPION STINGS TO BEAR ON HER SENSES.
"BASTARD! THERE HE IS AGAIN. INSIDE MY SCREAMING MIND. INSIDE THIS BOUND-LESS PAIN.
NO, DAMMIT. No!
"THE KRON'S LIFE PROGRAM IS DIGITIZED, DEMONIZED DOOM, ANTI-POWER, ANTI-LIFE. SUPPO-SEDLY A DYING SOCIETY HID THE KRON IN A PROTO SUN A BILLION YEARS AGO. THE KRON KILLED THAT STAR, TWO OTHERS-- AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PLANETARY SYSTEMS. FOUR HUNDRED BILLION LIVES WERE LOST."
"WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?"


THE DEEP SOUTH IN A TIME OF FREED SLAVES AND FALLOW CORNFIELDS...
KAYLA STARES UP AT THE BLOATED FACES OF HER DEAD PARENTS. HERE IN THE FOREST OF DEATH.
THE PLACE WHERE THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN THE FANTASY OF FREEDOM FIND COLD TRUTH AT THE END OF A NOOSE KAYLA HAS SEEN IT ALL TOO MANY TIMES. MEN AND WOMEN DRAGGED OUT OF BURNING HOMES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN. TONIGHT IS HER FAMILY'S TURN.
AND NOW SHE'S ALONE.
NO LOVE NO LIFE NO FUTURE. ONLY FEAR. AND THE HIDEOUS SOUNDS OF MEN ON HORSEBACK.
MORE NEGROES RUN AND ARE TRAMPLED UNDER HORSES' HOOVES. LAUGHTER AND GUNFIRE ABOUND.
KAYLA SEES THE FACE OF DEATH THROUGH DARKNESS AND TREE BRANCHES.
WHITE DEATH
KAYLA SCREAMS AND RUNS. NOW, ONE OF THE KLANSMEN HAS SEEN HER FLEEING FORM
THE HUNT IS ON.

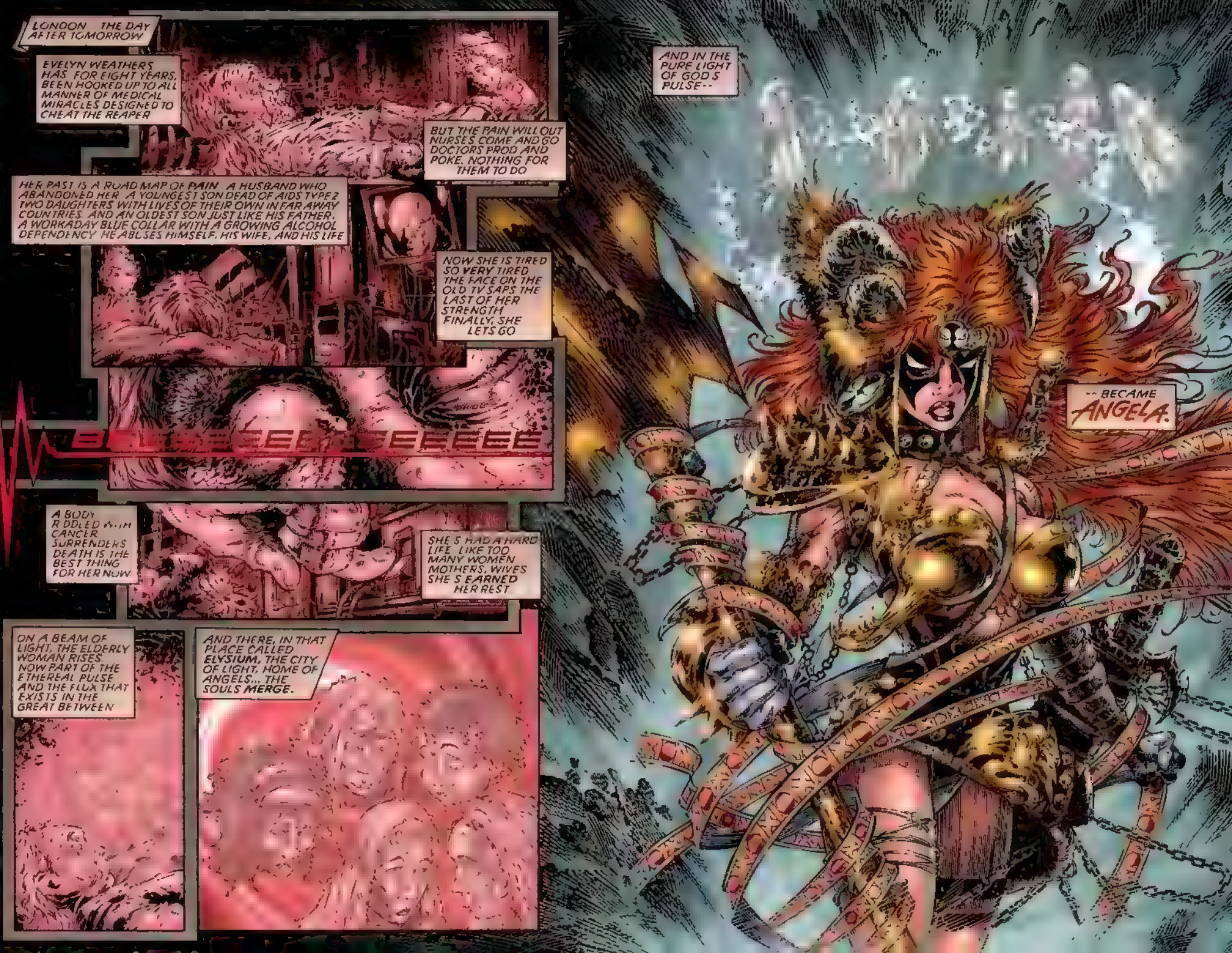

KAYLA RUNS FOR HER LIFE AND STOPS LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THE FACE OF A LITTLE BOY HER AGE.
JEREMIAH.
THEY PLAYED TOGETHER JUST TWO DAYS BEFORE. NOW MAGGOTS NEST IN HIS NOSTRILS AND EYE SOCKETS.
--AND HURLS IT WITH ALL HER MIGHT AT THE SPEEDING RIDER
TO SEE THE KLANSMAN FALL BRINGS MOMENTARY SATISFAC-TION
KAYLA RUNS AND TRIES TO VANISH DEEP INTO THE WOODS. SHE'S HEARD OF PLACES OUT NORTH WHERE IT'S BETTER FOR NEGROES BUT WITHOUT HER MOMMY AND DADDY IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE.
THEN SHE SEES THE FACE CARVED IN THE TRUNK OF A WILLOW A FACE THAT CHILLS HER TO THE MARROW.
SHE DOESN'T SEE THE BRANCH.
ANGER WELLS INSIDE THE LITTLE GIRL SHE PICKS UP A ROCK--
AND SUDDENLY SHE'S TUMBLING DOWN A MUDDY EMBANKMENT-- THAT FACE BURNING INTO HER MIND. ONLY THE COLD BRACE OF RIVER WATER SHAKES HER BACK TO HER DIRE CIRCUMSTANCE.

SHE NEVER LEARNED TO SWIM-- AND SO FLAILS, COUGHS -- AND THEN SEES THE MAN ON THE RIVERBANK THE FACE FROM THE TREE. DEURGES.
HE WATCHES HER WITH MILD DISDAIN.
HELP MEE--!
THE KLANSMAN, A LOCAL MINISTER BY DAY, HEARS THE CHILDS CRIES AND IS MORE THAN HAPPY TO OBLIGE
YEAH, I'LL HELP YA!
KAYLA DOESN'T FEEL PAIN OR FEAR ANY LONGER. WHAT SHE DOES FEEL IS A GROWING SENSE OF PEACE AND WARMTH LIKE NONE SHE'S EVER KNOWN...
... EXCEPT IN THE ARMS OF HER PARENTS.
NOW, EVERYTHING'S BEAUTIFUL. THE WORDS HER MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER SPOKE, WORDS FROM "THE GOOD BOOK," ARE TRUE. LIFE EVERLASTING. LIFE HERE AND FOREVER.
MOMMY! DADDY!
NO MORE PREJUDICE. NO MORE DEATH.
ONLY LOVE-- AND LIGHT-- AND JOY.


"UGLY BASTARDS ARE REALLY POURING IT ON. THEY WANT ME TO SCREAM, TO BEG FOR MERCY. WELL, THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN IN THIS OR ANY OTHER LIFETIME.
"BUT THE KRON. IF IT GOES FULLY ACTIVE THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT IT MIGHT DO. I CAN FEEL IT IN MY FLESH. REVERBERATIONS. TRANSMUTATIONS IN THE ETERNAL TRIUMVERATE.
MORE AGONIZERS SLASH AND BURN. THE ARGUS WANTS TO HEAR HER BEG. BUT THE MORE THEY ATTACK, THE STRONGER SHE BECOMES.
BUT DEEP INSIDE, ANGELA DOES SCREAM. SHE SCREAMS UNTIL HER MIND SHATTERS AND AGAIN BECOMES UNSTUCK IN TIME.
"DAMMIT, CAN'T THINK THROUGH THE AGONY. FEELS LIKE RAZORS CUTTING ME FROM THE BONE OUTWARD, SLICING EVERY MILLIMETER IN SLOW MOTION TORTURE."

HELL ON EARTH.
HERE, AT AUSCHWITZ, THE SILBERMAHN FAMILY-- SARAH, ISAAC, AND THEIR CHILDREN ANNA AND JOEL-- ARE MARCHED TOWARD THE SHOWERS. AN ASSEMBLY LINE OF DEATH.
PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU.
IF YOU HAVE A HEART AND SOUL BENEATH THAT UNIFORM, SPARE MY CHILDREN'S LIVES.
IN THE NAME OF GOD--!
THERE IS NO GOD IN THIS PLACE
BACK IN LINE, COW!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MAMA.
MAYBE IF WE DO WHAT THEY ASK, THEY'LL LET US GO HOME.
SARAH AND ISAAC HAVE TRIED TO SPARE THEIR CHILDREN THE HORROR OF THE TRUTH. BUT NOW THE TIDE OF DEATH LAPS AT THEIR HEELS.
IT PASSES CLOSE. CLOAKS THEM WITH A QUIET DESPERATION.
SARAH, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS.
THEY'RE JUST CHILDREN!

AND I WON'T LET YOU KILL THEM! ANNA, JOEL! RUN!
SARAH SINKS HER TEETH INTO THE GUARD'S THIGH DRAWS BLOOD AND A SCREAM AND THE CHILDREN SPRINT FOR THEIR LIVES.
BUT THEY'RE NOT FAST ENOUGH TO OUTRUN ANOTHER GUARD'S BULLETS.
MAMAAA!
LIVES STOLEN MORE FUEL FOR THE OVENS.
SARAH WAILS FOR HER FAMILY EVEN AS ISAAC TAKES HER HAND AND LEADS HER BACK INTO THE LONG SLOW LINE. TOGETHER THEY CRY AND SAY QUIET PRAYERS OF LOVE AND LIFE AS THEY WALK THROUGH THE SHOWER DOORS TO THEIR DEATHS.


LONDON THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
EVELYN WEATHERS HAS FOR EIGHT YEARS, BEEN HOOKED UP TO ALL MANNER OF MEDICAL MIRACLES DESIGNED TO CHEAT THE REAPER
BUT THE PAIN WILL OUT NURSES COME AND GO DOCTORS PROD AND POKE. NOTHING FOR THEM TO DO
HER PAST IS A ROAD MAP OF PAIN A HUSBAND WHO ABANDONED HER A YOUNGEST SON DEAD OF AIDS TYPE 2 TWO DAUGHTERS WITH LIVES OF THEIR OWN IN FAR AWAY COUNTRIES. AND AN OLDEST SON JUST LIKE HIS FATHER. A WORKADAY BLUE COLLAR WITH A GROWING ALCOHOL DEPENDENCY HE ABUSES HIMSELF, HIS WIFE, AND HIS LIFE
NOW SHE IS TIRED SO VERY TIRED THE FACE ON THE OLD TV SAPS THE LAST OF HER STRENGTH FINALLY, SHE LETS GO
BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
A BODY RIDDLED WITH CANCER SURRENDERS DEATH IS THE BEST THING FOR HER NOW
SHE S HAD A HARD LIFE LIKE TOO MANY WOMEN MOTHERS, WIVES SHE S EARNED HER REST
ON A BEAM OF LIGHT, THE ELDERLY WOMAN RISES. NOW PART OF THE ETHEREAL PULSE AND THE FLUX THAT EXISTS IN THE GREAT BETWEEN
AND THERE, IN THAT PLACE CALLED ELYSIUM, THE CITY OF LIGHT, HOME OF ANGELS... THE SOULS MERGE.
AND IN THE PURE LIGHT OF GOD S PULSE--
-- BECAME ANGELA.

HE STANDS ON A LEDGE IN THE DEEP CAVERN ON PENTAGES-FRASER.
DEURGES.
HE WATCHES WITH QUIET, MOTIONLESS DISPASSION AS THE ARGUS CLIMBS TOWARD THE COCOONED EX-ANGEL.
HE WATCHES HER WITH THE COLD STILLNESS OF DEATH.

IMAGE INFO

blah, blah, blah 56

What's the word on the street you ask? Well, by the time you read this the first few episodes of Spawn the animated show will have already aired on HBO. They are on every Friday night at midnight from May 16th on, for six consecutive weeks. If you do not get HBO don't sweat it. The shows will be collected and sold on video and laser disc sometime in September from HBO Home Video. (For those of you under 13 and/or you moms out there, two different video versions will be released, one R-rated the other PG-13)

The post-production on the movie is screaming along at a blistering pace. The boys at ILM, Banned from the Ranch and Santa Barbara Studios are busy cranking out the cool special effects. New Line has just completed the trailer that hopefully will be debuting in the theaters on May 23rd with the Jurassic Park/Lost World" flick. We can only wait and see.

I'm off to see the guys in San Diego tomorrow who are working on the video game for Sony. I promise you an update next month. I also promise you an updated licensing list of all the cool Spawn merchandise on its way! Like: Want a Spawn t-shirt? Our first apparel licensee Giant Merchandise has already introduced shirts into the marketplace. Check out your local Musicland. No new update on the Spawn movie soundtrack this month, other than the Korn/Dust Brothers tune will be ready in two weeks. Word is Marilyn Manson is interested in doing a little diddy for us.

Photos... of course. The photo on the left is of skateboarding "King", Steve Caballero. I have followed Steve's career on and off for over a decade now. I saw Steve ride in the World Championships during Expo 86 in Vancouver. Remember the crappy plywood full pipe Steve, that splintered on the second day? Anyhow, check out which beloved dark, anti-hero Steve favors... in other words check out the Spawn sticker on the bottom of his deck. The photo was taken at the BoardAid competition at Bear Mountain, California last month. Thanks for the show of support Steve. How about convincing Powell to produce a Spawn line of decks?

The other photo, and it's such a cool shot all that, is of Jason Burke. He is 12 years old and a member of the Spawn hockey team in Detroit, which plays at the Pee Wee "A" level. This shot shows off a true hockey player in all his glory. Look into those eyes. See the determination, the drive, the desire... Don't you just wonder what is running through his mind? Bunnies... Puck Bunnies... Sorry, Puck Adolescent Women.

Until next month. The train keeps a rolling all night long.

-terry "fitzy t" fitzgerald

CURSE WORDS™

CURSE WORDS P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228
HTTP://WWW.SPAWN.COM

The HBO series is now in full swing and we've gotten lots of positive feedback on it. It's playing at midnight on HBO every Friday night and it's rated "R". The movie trailer is also playing at theaters now. So if you go out to see Lost World there is a good chance you'll get to see a preview of the Spawn movie. Write in and let me know what you think about the animation and the movie trailer.

Dear Curse People...

WHOA. I just got done reading Curse of the Spawn #5 and was blown away. "Intense and intriguing" is what I have to say. This was such a different story (from all the others) and was just wondering who came up with this idea. Will there be any others similar to this? It's like Hell wondering when I'll find 36.

Oh, that's another question of mine. When exactly do you ship out your comics? I live in a small town and can never seem to find any Spawn books unless there's a blue moon. Do you have some sort of mailing list? How ironic - you all are so close, yet so far.

[illegible] (female) Age 15
White River, Arizona

The story that we presented starting with Curse #5 is more in keeping with the kind of stories I'd like to see in this book. Sam and Twitch are supporting characters in the regular Spawn book and as I've said in the past, we don't have the room to tell their story in the regular book 'cause I've got to talk about Spawny. This is the book that was created to expand on all the side characters while at the same time keeping with the same mood and atmosphere that we've presented in the regular Spawn book. I'm glad that you like what we're doing so far. I'll pass it on to the creative team.

As for having a mailing list, we don't do any back issue sales. We leave that up to the comic shops. Your best bet is to phone one of the local comic shop owners and see if they have any in their back stock that they'll sell you at a reasonable price. Thanks for stickin' around.

Dear Todd

The Curse of the Spawn rules. Issues 1 through 6 so far have been way past my wildest dreams. I had no clue that this book would be so damned good. Alan by far is the best horror writer out there (Go for a novel, bro!) for comics.

You guys have a mighty graphic comic on your hands, though. And the sad part is this shit really happens, man. Who would have ever thought that these horrible things that happen when the dark side of humanity pokes its head up for a peep would be in a magazine entitled "comic book" Damn, man!

Anyway, hats off to Turner. He's at the peak of his career and only getting better page by page. His art really brings out the blinding darkness that flows out of Alan's pencil. And Danny, your inks are, as always, the best.

Well, no questions except for the Spawn/Punisher team-up I'm going to keep asking about until it happens. (ha ha) Thank you for your time, Neighbor.

Michael Copley
Peoria, Arizona

I'd say that the book we're doing right now has got a lot more of an edge to it than the regular Spawn book. If I had to give them a rating, I'd say that the regular Spawn book is a PG-13 book whereas the Curse book is bordering on an R rated book. For readers that joined the club five years ago, their tastes have the tendency to mature and get a little more sophisticated. I wanted to present a book that expanded on the theology and weird, warped characters from the Spawn book and not have to worry whether an eight year old kid would be able to get it. Maybe the next book I do will be something a little lighter than the regular Spawn book. For now, I felt there was a need for a kind of Blade Runner, updated title from me. I appreciate you continuing to ask for cross overs. At this point in my life I'm so busy with other matters, I can't really see myself free and clear to even think about a cross over even within Image comics let alone with one of the other major characters in comicdom. I hope that this doesn't disappoint you too much as I think we're presenting a lot of other things in lieu of that should be fairly interesting to you.

Mr. Todd McFarlane

First off, I would like to say thank you. Thank you for taking your wonderful idea of Spawn and sharing it with the rest of us.

I have watched (and read) as Spawn has worked its way into the forefront of the comic industry. What really amazes me is how you have accomplished it all by staying true to your strong beliefs about how Spawn should be treated. You have kept the comic book continuously at a high standard of entertainment, while at the same time juggling all of the other types of business aspects that Spawn has created.

When the group of gentlemen who banded together with you and formed Image I (as a fan) expected great things to come about. True to form, great things were produced. The books that arrived showed us new and exciting things, opening up a whole new universe for our imaginations. Needless to say, after the dust had settled Spawn stood out as the best. Now, almost five years later Spawn is still the best. Image book available and possibly one of the best books on the market.

What I believe most people do not realize is that you are living the American dream. You took your simple idea of a man coming back to life (for love) and molded and shaped it into...Spawn. The great things, you did it your way. The book, then the toys, now the movie and shortly an animated show. You never lost your focus, though. You knew that Spawn had to stay out there. When things became too hectic for you, along came Greg Capullo who by the way is doing a superb job. Also Spawn was never over exposed. Who else can say that they concentrated entirely on one book for 5 years and kept the price at $1.95. To me, that is quite an achievement. All I can say is Thank You for thinking of all of us fans.

For something on a slightly personal note, I have another reason to Thank you. I was visiting a valley comic store and happen to notice an article posted on the wall about you. In the article, there was also a picture of you in your front yard with a Spawn model. I built that model for you. Seeing you with it gave me a renewed sense of accomplishment. When Mr. Burke first hired me to build those models, it blew me away! I tried to put my best work into it, knowing that maybe it would be something that you were proud to own. Well, you being the enormously busy person that you are, I knew that I probably would never get the opportunity to talk to you in person and find out how you liked it. Seeing you posing with the model helped to shake me out of my model building rut and jump back into it with all my heart and talent.

Well, maybe one day I will get my wish and be able to just sit down and talk with you, but if it is not too much to ask, I have enclosed a S.A.S.E. and a little card for you. It would really mean a lot to me to hear how you liked your model and if you had another one, what you would like to see that I might have missed to make it better. Maybe someday I will send you pictures of the other color schemes I came up with on some of the figures you have manufactured. Well, I hope that you read and enjoy this letter Mr. McFarlane. Read it and know that there are many fans out here who appreciate you and your work. Thank you once again, Mr. McFarlane.

Your fan & friend
Raymond Steward Age 24
Phoenix, Arizona

First off, let me formally thank you for spending the time and effort in creating such a wonderful model for me. Although, to tell you the truth, I get lots of creations by people in the mail, some from six year olds all the way up to thirty six year olds. Obviously, yours was one of the better ones, but I'm always honored that anyone would spend any amount of time to create something for me. I don't look at whether the product is a professional job or not; it's just as heart warming to see a ten year old kid spend time as someone who is a lot more proficient like yourself.

In terms of us leaving Marvel comics and starting Image the hardest step was actually deciding what we (each one of us) were going to do. What was the first character we were going to pull out of our brains and put on to paper. In 1992, I made that character Spawn. He was one of my favorites that I created back when I was a teenager about twelve or thirteen years earlier. Although I have lots of other characters in my brain, I decided that I'd stick with him for a while until I felt that he was secure enough to go out on his own.

One of the reasons, I feel I have to be attached to the look of the movie, the look of the animation, the look of the toys is because I see this character as a child of mine and I can raise him better than anybody else just like my own flesh and blood children. I don't feel like handing him off and putting him up for adoption and just watching him from afar while somebody else is telling me what's best for my kid.

I don't see this as being out of the ordinary, although in hind sight it's odd to see people sticking on a book for four or five years at a time. In the fifties and sixties, that would be considered a short run. People would often do hundred issue runs and teams stayed on books for longer periods of time than they do today. That seems to be one of the down sides to the comic book industry even since I broke in to comics. I wish we had a little more focus on what we did. I guess it's to my benefit that people don't focus on the characters and don't spend the time that's needed to plant the seed, water and nurse it and pick the fruit years later. Those of us that do that have a tendency to look a little bit better in the public's eye. Thanks for noticing! Take care.

Dear Todd

I just want to thank you for creating such awesome KISS dolls. I saw a picture of them and they make all the other action figures look like heck. You really out-did yourself this time. It takes only super human talent like yours to be creative. I was wondering if you could please send me a copy of your colorful KISS flyers or catalogs on all of your most recent creations including KISS. Also if you have any other pictures of KISS or KISS comics like 'KISS VS Spawn' or 'KISS Meets the X-men'. If you have any KISS flyers that are not wanted anymore, I'll take them from you. Your immediate attention is greatly appreciated.

Todd McFarlane and KISS are #1 forevermore.

Sincerely
Agustin Alvarado, I

By the time this book comes out, you should only be a few weeks away from being able to purchase the KISS toys. As I'm answering your letter, I'm looking down at the first set that are actually finals products in their blister pack. There are still some minor corrections that I need to fix on them but over all the product came out quite well.

The other thing that we're going to be starting in July is the KISS comic. Angel Medina and Kevin Conrad will be doing the art work and Brian Holguin will be doing the writing on it. If I had to label it, I'd say it's more of a Vertigo book or something keeping in the spirit of the Curse of the Spawn with that kind of weird feel and atmosphere. The title of the book will be KISS: The Psycho Circus. I'll be showing some preliminary stuff in the Spawn and Curse books in the upcoming months.

As for your toy questions, Spawn issue #64 will come polybagged with a free toy catalog that will show you every toy coming out in the year of 1997. This isn't a gimmick to get people to buy double copies since the speculators market is over, it's not something that's going to go up in value but more for people to rip open the bag, read the comic and read the toy catalog and enjoy what they see. This will be coming out in August.

Dear Mr. McFarlane

I have two questions, one pertaining to the Spawn movie and two pertaining to the animated series.

The first question is that it is only fair to have other artists on the movie sound track such as artists like Wu Tang Clan, The Grave Diggas, Snoop Doggy Dog or Hellah Skeltah to do a track in the movie because I heard that only rock and rap artists such as Metallica and Beastie Boys and KISS will have a track in the movie and I feel that since Spawn is an Afro-American super hero they should have at least two black singing or rap artists on the sound track.

The second question is that if the animated series is successful will they have more episodes and also will characters like The Freak, Sanskar Vertebreaker and She-Spawn be on the casting line up.

Can you please show scenes from the movie in any of your upcoming Spawn issues?

A concerned Spawn fan
Cheyenne Celus
New Orleans, LA

You bring up a very interesting point about the sound track, but ultimately I think everybody concerned is just going for the best artists that can sell the CD or tape. While we were doing the movie, I don't think that we gave it a slant one way or the other. I've always felt that Spawn is a generic hero. Because he was burnt and faceless, he's somebody that an Asian, a Latino, a white or a black could place their own kind of face on him and make him their own super hero instead of saying that he is a nice, good looking Caucasian boy. Because of that, we went out and got the best talent we could for the movie and that same attitude is being used for the sound track. I can't say at this point who is definitely on or off the sound track. I'm sure we'll have a nice mix and it will be based on their music and not on their race or creed.

SPAWN
THE MOVIE

NEW LINE CINEMA

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The Casting Call

With **Spawn** being "green lit" in April 1996 and having an on-screen date set for August 8, principle photography needed to commence in August of '96. Normally, films are green lit by studios once a cast is in place. In contrast, **Spawn** was green lit as a special effects movie without a cast.

Therefore, a cast needed to be assembled as quickly as possible. As actors frequently sign on for several projects in advance, waiting for certain actors to finish current projects was not an option. Therefore, casting **Spawn** was somewhat restricted due to many actors' previous commitments. For each role, a list of at least 25 candidates was provided to the director, producer, and myself by the casting agent. These were narrowed down, and auditions were then conducted. When complete, the cast list for **Spawn** comprised of some newer faces, a few up-and-coming actors, and a couple recognizable names on the big screen.

A lot of people have asked me questions like "Who is Michael Jai White and where could I have seen him before?" or "Why did *Martin Sheen* decide to play **Jason Wynn**?" *Michael Jai White* plays **Al Simmons/Spawn** and starred in HBO's Tyson and had supporting roles in 2 Days in the Valley, Universal Soldier, and True Identity. He has also appeared on several television shows including NYPD Blue, Martin, and Living Single. Both **Al Simmons** and **Spawn** needed a strong presence and unquestionable strength, and Michael could deliver both. Michael's strength is obvious upon meeting him as he has 18 years experience in martial arts and holds a black belt in 5 karate styles.

Martin Sheen initially took an interest in the role of Jason Wynn because his grandson is a huge **Spawn** fan. Sheen has an extensive film career including parts in such groundbreaking films as Apocalypse Now, Gandhi, Wall Street, and The American President. Over his career, Martin has worked with some of the mostly highly respected directors in the industry including Francis Ford Coppola, George C. Scott, Sir Richard Attenborough, Rob Reiner and Oliver Stone.

Next time, I'll fill you in on John Leguizamo who plays Clown, Nicol Williamson who plays Cogliostro, D.B. Sweeney who plays Terry Fitzgerald, and Theresa Randle who plays Wanda.

TODD MCFARLANE'S

Spawn®

McFarlane Toys

NO CAP

Spawn End Cap
P.O. Box 27228
Tempe, AZ 85285-7228
e-mail: McFarlane_Toys@compuserve.com

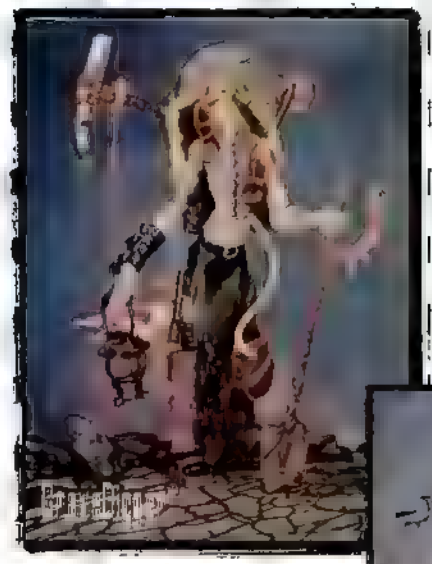
Let's start with some of the e-mail...

Doug Eckels from aol.com wondered why we sell only older figures through the toy club. Surely it wouldn't collapse the entire empires of certain toy chains if we competed head to head with them. Doug, that's not the purpose of the toy club. We are just trying our hardest to be the best toy company we can be without the added burden of being the best mail-order company selling new figures too. The Toy Club does a lot of business and we've got our hands full with the orders for the older figures. Selling new ones just isn't in the picture right now.

Gary Mu. from intergate.bc.ca mentioned that the Spawn Web site (http://www.spawn.com) has the list of action figure series names down incorrectly. It says that *Series 1* was Fall of '94, *Series 2* was Spring of '95, and the figures that shipped in Fall of '95 ALSO are *Series 2* (10120s). This has been confusing in the past but here's what happened. Our original line of action figures (10100) were all about 6 inches tall and called *Series 1*, as you'd expect. It consisted of **Spawn, Clown, Violator, Tremor, Overtkill,** and **Medieval Spawn.** But the NEXT line of figures was actually ULTRA-Action Figures Series One (10110), even though it was our second line to be produced. Each of the figures (**Angela, Malebolgia, Pilot Spawn, Chapel, Badrock,** and **Commando Spawn**) was about 1/2 inch taller than the previous figures. They also had a bit more detailing and accessories than we did originally, thus the name "Ultra Action". So while the third series we did was stamped 10120, internally they were called *Ultra Series 2*. We have since switched back to the "real" numbering system, so the **Spawn** *Series 8* figures are actually called that on the package, instead of *Ultra-Action Series 7*.

Speaking of *Series 8*, they are on their way to store shelves now. Look for the figures to start appearing near you soon. They arrived a few weeks early, while the Monster Assortment was a couple of weeks late. Thus both hit at about the same time. The series includes a **Curse of the Spawn** figure. Stepping straight from the first few issues of that best-selling title is Daniel Lianso as the **Spawn** of the future. He comes ready to fight the Anti-Pope and his minions with his giant battle weapons and his flexing bone-wings.

Gravedigger is next up...WAY up. This guy towers over the other figures in the line. Not only does he come with a pair of shovels, a pick-ax, a gravestone, a lantern, a "leather" blood-spattered apron, and a necklace of human body parts, but he is not alone in the package. There are FIVE bendable demons packed with him. Each one is a different color and has a different head, and are flexible and tall enough to start their own basketball team. Oh, yeah, **Gravedigger** himself is pretty cool, too.



Gatekeeper follows close behind, with a menacing look under that deep cowl. As if that huge knife he carries wasn't enough, his arm fires a tri-blade harpoon. Once you add in the real cape and removable hood, you have a character that is not only mean, but ENJOYS being mean.

Rotarr spins in on the same blue cards as the rest of the series. This one has it all: articulation, bendability, and fun! Not only do his fingers actually swivel tight to grip his weapons, he has a bendable tail to attack anyone from behind. Let's not forget the giant spinning helicopter backpack, which he uses to shoot his gun at foes from above. Martians only attack from the ground, but Rotarrians attack from EVERYWHERE!

Renegade stalks into the line also. This Native-American **Spawn** is well articulated and has a removable headdress-cow.. Guiding him in his adventures in early-America is his faithful companion, a bald eagle. He keeps a watchful eye out for **Sabre,** the bison with an attitude. **Sabre** has been known to sneak up behind his prey and using his battering ram, become a one-person stampede. Don't let the gold jewelry fool you, this is one mean animal.

The *Series 7* repaints are due to hit the stores soon, also. We have added extra value to them by including new re-sculpted accessories. Among the changes in the assortment: **Scourge** now has an EXTRA head and arms replacing the original top horn, **Sam** has a smile (and full mouth) while **Twitch** is wearing a suit, **Zombie Spawn's** arm has the chainsaw embedded directly in it, and **No-Body** now has a full head instead of just a brain to insert in his chest. You'll also see **Spawn III** with a wolf companion, replacing his previous owl in the box. We've also added something to the packaging to help the collectors know which figure is the original and which is the redeco that shipped later. We've added the words "2nd Edition" on the front sticker underneath each toy's particular action description.

Coming up next...you wanted the best, you GOT the best! **KISS** action figures ship in late June, along with the first of the **Spawn** movie line. More details next month. Keep those cards coming!

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CORNER STICKER FOR 2ND EDITIONS

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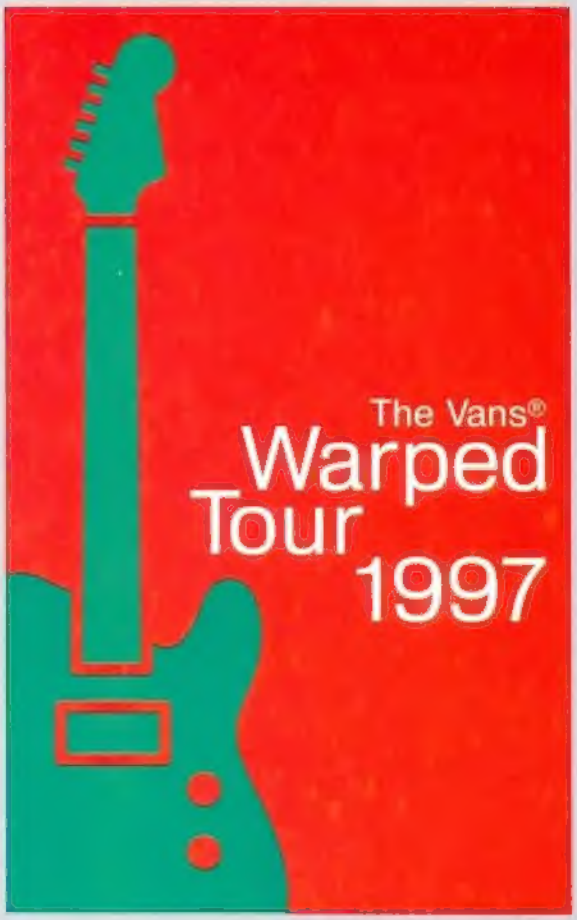

Descendents | Royal Crown Revue | Blink-182 | Pennywise | Sick Of It All

Social Distortion | Lo Presher | The Vandals | Millencolin | Helmet

The Suicide Machines | Face To Face | Lagwagon

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones | Less Than Jake | Hepcat | Reel Big Fish

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The Athletes:
Steve Caballero
Rick Thorne
Mike Frazier
Neil Hendrix
Tom Fry
Kurt Smith
Maxwell Wilhite
Ian Spencer Green
Tim Boyle
Brad Crawford
Simon Woodstock

Salman Agah
Josh Beagle
Sergio Ventura
Tim Ward
Ron Wilkerson
Mark McCarron

The Tour Will Be
Cruising Through Most Major Cities
This Summer
Every City Will Have
Different Bands on Two Stages
So Check Out Your Local Listings
for What's Up!

ROCES WARP SKATEBOARDING BRAND GT Epitaph BILLABONG Sorting SCHOOL
SONY PlayStation ONE TEC WARPED Mad Puppy GODMONEY ASCAP SKECHERS switch

THE HEAT STARTS IN JUNE AT THE ANNUAL
***DRAGON CON* June 26TH-June 29TH**
Atlanta Inforum Center.

Featuring the KISS Tribute Band-*Hotter Than Hell*-in a 90 minute concert celebrating the release of McFarlane Toys' new KISS figures.

AND IN JULY, ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE AT THE
***CHICAGO COMIC CON* July 4TH *TO* July 6TH**
Rosemont Convention Center.

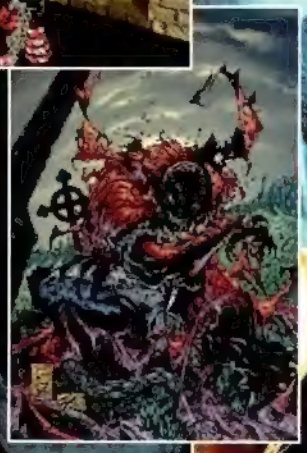
With a specialty celebrity appearance by actor ***Michael Jai White***, SPAWN from the movie!

PLUS meet the artists:

Todd Broeker
colorist of Curse of the Spawn.

Angel Medina
penciler of the upcoming KISS Psycho Circus book.

Kevin Conrad
inker of KISS Psycho Circus.



At both cons, walk through the interactive ***"Spawn Alley"*** and encounter ***Spawn*** in its many forms- The HBO Animation, the live-action movie, Sony's video game, the comic books and McFarlane Toys.

Plus, Director Mark Dippe and/or Producer Clint Goldman present a sneak peek at the movie's special effects with a special Spawn Movie presentation.

Also Appearing
Al Simmons aka Spawn.

www.spawn.com

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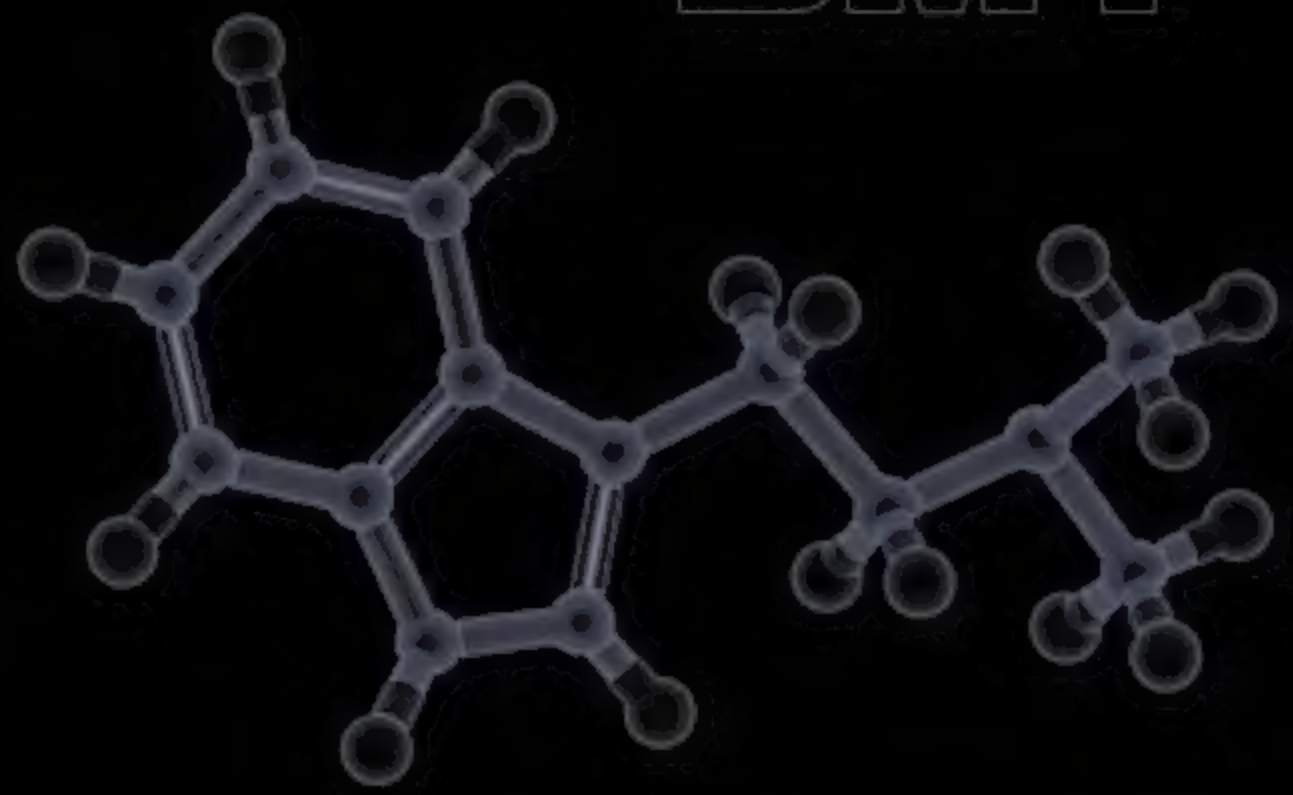
DarthScanner

DMT



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